

House File 160 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 160

BY SHIPLEY

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to approval of a charter school application by
2 the boards of directors of a school district.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 256F.3, subsection 2, paragraph a, Code
2 2019, is amended to read as follows:

3 a. To receive approval by the state board under section
4 256F.5 to establish a charter school in accordance with this
5 chapter, the principal, teachers, or parents or guardians
6 of students at an existing public school shall submit an
7 application to the school board to convert an existing
8 attendance center to a charter school. An attendance center
9 shall not enter into a charter school contract with a school
10 district under this chapter unless the attendance center is
11 located within the school district. The application shall
12 demonstrate the support of at least fifty percent of the
13 teachers employed at the school on the date of the submission
14 of the application and fifty percent of the parents or
15 guardians voting whose children are enrolled at the school,
16 provided that a majority of the parents or guardians eligible
17 to vote participate in the ballot process, according to
18 procedures established by rules of the state board.

19 Sec. 2. Section 256F.3, subsections 4 and 5, Code 2019, are
20 amended to read as follows:

21 4. A school board shall ~~by a majority vote approve or deny~~
22 an application ~~relating to~~ establish a charter school, if the
23 application meets the requirements of subsection 2, paragraph
24 "a", no later than sixty calendar days after the application
25 is received. An application approved by a school board and
26 subsequently approved by the state board pursuant to subsection
27 6 shall constitute, at a minimum, an agreement between the
28 school board and the charter school for the operation of the
29 charter school. ~~A school board that denies an application for~~
30 ~~a conversion to a charter school shall provide notice of denial~~
31 ~~to the applicant in writing within thirty days after board~~
32 ~~action. The notice shall specify the exact reasons for denial~~
33 ~~and provide documentation supporting those reasons.~~

34 5. An applicant may appeal the failure of a school
35 ~~board denial of~~ to submit the applicant's charter school

1 application to the state board ~~in accordance with the~~ as
 2 provided in subsection 4 by utilizing the procedures set
 3 forth in chapter 290. The state board shall affirm, modify,
 4 or reverse the school board's decision on the basis of the
 5 information provided in the application indicating the ability
 6 and willingness of the proposed charter school to meet the
 7 requirements of ~~section 256F.1, subsection 3 2, and section~~
 8 ~~256F.4~~ paragraph "a".

9 EXPLANATION

10 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
 11 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

12 This bill eliminates a school district's authority to
 13 deny an application to convert an existing school district
 14 attendance center to a charter school but requires instead
 15 that the school board review and submit to the state board of
 16 education an application that meets current Code requirements,
 17 and allows the applicant to appeal to the state board a school
 18 board's failure to submit the application to the state board.
 19 The bill makes corresponding changes.

20 Current Code provisions requiring that the application be
 21 submitted by the principal, teachers, or parents or guardians
 22 of students at an existing public school attendance center
 23 located within the school district; that the application
 24 demonstrate the support of at least 50 percent of the teachers
 25 and 50 percent of the parents or guardians voting whose
 26 children are enrolled at the school; and that authorize the
 27 state board of education to approve or deny such application,
 28 remain unchanged by the bill.